

TO: BIG WALNUT CLASS OF 2018 AND THEIR PARENTS
FROM: THE BIG WALNUT EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.
RE: SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

January 19, 2018

The Big Walnut Education Foundation, Inc. estimates that it will be awarding approximately \$80,000 in scholarships to Big Walnut students this year. The Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization begun in 1994 and controlled by a board of trustees from the Big Walnut community. Through generous donations and fund raising events such as our annual golf outing, the Education Foundation continues to grow and increase the amount of scholarship awards each year. In 1995 \$6,000 was awarded in scholarships, in 2017 \$85,500 was awarded to 47 students. A complete list of 2017 scholarship winners is available in the BWHS Counseling Office. **To date, the Foundation has awarded over \$1,577,500 in scholarships to Big Walnut graduates.**

The Education Foundation wants to inform you of the opportunities, procedures, and deadlines you must follow if you are to be awarded scholarship money from your community. The Big Walnut Education Foundation, Inc. administers many scholarships including the Shidecker Memorial, Platinum, Golden Eagle, Bronze Eagle, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Dr. Dean Backiewicz, Payton, Davis, Scanlan, Griffin, Dan Tyler, Jim Burkhart, and the Continuing College to name a few. You stand an excellent opportunity to receive an award, if you apply.

Financial need is a crucial component of all the scholarships. With the increasing cost of higher education, the financial responsibility of education involves parents and family as well as the student. Few graduating seniors will put themselves through school. In order for the scholarship committee to fairly evaluate the financial need of applicants, the parents of the applicant are asked to fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form and send it to the Federal Government **as soon as possible**. Once the FAFSA is processed the applicant will receive an EFC number, which is the assessment of financial need. The EFC number ranks the applicant on a scale of financial need between applicants. Without an EFC your financial need cannot be fairly measured or scored in that category on scholarship applications. **Therefore, without submission of an EFC number your application will not be evaluated.** A copy of student aid report or FAFSA conformation page with EFC must be submitted with application.

The criteria for the scholarships vary. The Golden Eagle, Davis, and Backiewicz Scholarships are targeted for students whose GPA is a 3.5 or lower. The Bronze Eagle Scholarships are for post secondary study other than a four-year degree program, for example two-year associate or accredited technical and vocational programs. Teacher and other adult recommendation forms are a crucial part of these applications. The Platinum Eagle Scholarship is based on academic and extracurricular achievement. Beginning in 2000, the Continuing College Scholarships have been offered to Big Walnut graduates already enrolled in college and seeking support. Again a reminder, financial need is a component of all the scholarships and completion of the FAFSA is required.

You may choose from three different application forms available through Naviance or in the School Counseling Office. All applications are due back to the School Counseling Office by Friday, April 06, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. Scholarships will be awarded at Honors Night on Monday, May 8, 2018. Notification of awards will be made by mail prior to Honors Night. Some applicants will be required to be interviewed by the scholarship committee on Monday, April 16 or Tuesday, April 17, 2018. All questions regarding the applications should be directed to the School Counseling Office.

The Big Walnut Education Foundation, Inc. reserves the right to revoke any student's scholarship funds if the student's conduct is deemed unethical or illegal. The Foundation's decision will be final and the student will be notified in writing.

Platinum Eagle Scholarship – Applicants should be aware that the GPA, SAT/ACT test scores, as well as Honors and Awards make up 55% of the evaluation. This application is targeted for the student with a GPA of 3.5 and above, who performs well on standardized tests and has many activities.

Golden Eagle Scholarship – Applicant's GPA range is 3.49 or less. Teacher and adult recommendations, work experience and extracurricular experience are weighted more heavily than test scores. **You may not apply for the Golden Eagle Scholarship if your GPA is 3.5 or above.**

Bronze Eagle Scholarship – This scholarship is for applicants who plan to enter accredited programs other than a four-year degree program. Greater emphasis is placed on the applicant's work experience, adult recommendations, and financial need.

*****FAFSA IS MANDATORY FOR ALL APPLICATIONS*****

Each of the application categories will offer some multi-year awards as well as one-year awards.

QUESTIONS REGARDING APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE (740) 965-2243.